



## Arlington Tree Committee Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, January 10, 2024

**Time:** 7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

**Location:** Conducted via Zoom [ATC Monthly Meeting Zoom Link](#)

**Attendees:** Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Mara Vatz.

**Guests:** Olivier Aries, Marina Popova, ConComm Rep Sara Alfaro-Franco

### Items:

1. Review Agenda, Introduce Guests.
2. New Member Interest and Next Steps -- Keith explained that the ATC is moving ahead with the recommendation of two new ATC members at this time, and will submit these to the Select Board.
3. Review Action Items
  - Removing bags and stake from new trees: Eliza and Steve will have a game plan for the Spring, when conditions are better for removing stakes.
  - Mary Ellen will edit the website and update recommended tree list.
  - Meet the Tree Committee Coffees -- we should invite the Adopt a Tree folks.
  - Draft Town Meeting Warrant Article was shared with Mike R. and Select Board. Eric H. had some questions.
4. Minutes -- December minutes were reviewed and APPROVED, with minor changes.
5. Tree Division Update (Mary Ellen presented for Tim, who is attending Tree Warden Conference today, and is unable to attend ATC meeting)
  - Tree Bylaw Activity
    - 14 Wyman Terr. Developer: John Carney. No trees to be removed. No information about trees to be preserved.
    - 31 Virginia Rd. Developer: John Carney. No trees to be removed.
    - 51 Birch St. Developer: Albert Azatyants. No trees slated for removal.
  - Tree Hearings -- No hearings since last meeting.
  - Town Projects & Maintenance Activities
    - Tree damage from recent storms -- Tree Crew worked on that earlier this week.
  - Other
    - Mike R. does not want to do planting on private property, but would allow funds to be used for tree planting on private property by a contractor (Back-of-the-Sidewalk initiative).
    - Reminder that Town contracts go through Purchasing Agent, which we should check with regarding the necessary inclusion of the watering requirement.
    - Spring planting: Tim doesn't know if he needs help finding planting spots; he will get back to us.
    - **Action Item: Steve and Susan will try to get QR code on tree bag tags for this year.**
6. Bylaw Discussion
  - January -- Town Meeting Warrant Article is due
    - After receiving feedback from our Select Board liaison (Eric Helmuth) about our proposed Article to address potential Bylaw amendments (Eric asked why we need reference to MGL Ch. 87 in the Bylaw if it's already in Ch. 87), the ATC voted 7-0 to remove the section regarding the back-of-the-sidewalk planting from the Warrant Article.
7. Tree-Related Interactions with Town
  - Adopt-A-Tree -- Close out 2023 complete.
  - Town Boards/Committees/Commissions
    - We need a new ATC representative to ConComm.

8. Annual Report 2023

- Eliza presented the ATC Annual Report. We discussed how we could use this more widely, as an enhanced annual report, including goals for 2024, that we can use to communicate with the Select Board. We can also distribute at Town Meeting.
- We discussed how we should be among the Committees listed in the back of the Town Annual Report.  
**Action Item: Get ATC listed in the back of the Town Annual Report. Steve will contact Town Hall tomorrow to find out how to:**
  - **Get the ATC listed in the Town Annual Report.**
  - **Add the ATC Annual Report to our website.**
  - **Ensure the inclusion of the ATC Annual Report narrative in the Town Annual Report.**
  - **Update the Town website to say we have a hybrid meeting arrangement, rather than just in-person.**
  - **Make sure the members are listed correctly and consistently on Town website.**

9. Goals for 2024

- New members.
- Student engagement.
- Trees Please funds utilization for Bylaw sites and Town heat islands.
- Potential Bylaw expansion.
- Increase Adopt-a-Tree Program involvement.
- Increase Community Canopy Program. Possibly go to two planting cycles per season. Also target heat islands, possibly using GIS tool.
- Update Tree Management Plan and/or Annual Report.

10. Community Canopy Program

- Town GIS map can be used to notify neighbors where trees have been lost and where new tree planting is encouraged. When a property loses trees, we can gather mailing addresses for all property owners within a certain geographic radius. We could then mail them information about the Community Canopy program. Should we offer free trees in those areas, since the money is coming from the Trees Please Fund?
- **Action Item: Subcommittee of Mary Ellen, Eliza, (Olivier and Marina would also like to participate) to discuss more.**

11. New Business

- Member Appointments/Reappointments by Select Board
  - Renewals, Swearing-In, Conflict of Interest training.
  - **Action Item: Ed will get sworn in.**
- ATC gathering celebration.
- Meet the ATC event.
- **Action item: Keith will find out why we got locked out of conference room tonight.**

12. Review New Action Items.

**Adjourned: 8:55 PM**

**Next Meeting: February 14, 2024; 7:30 PM**